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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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1967

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. L. B. HAINES

Mrs. B. C. WINCH

Mrs. L. E. DAWSON

Medical Officer of Health

SYLVIA MACMILLAN, M.R.S.C., L.R.C.P., M.B.B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Surveyor and Inspector

E. J. BANNER, M.Inst.H.E., A.R.S.H.

Lexden Grange,
Lexden Road,
Colchester.
June, 1968.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1967.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

SYLVIA MACMILLAN.

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics and Social Circumstances of the Area

Area (acres)	2,683
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	3,580
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1967) according to Rate Book	1,597
Rateable Value	£142,455
Sum represented by a penny rate	£578

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is the western portion of Mersea Island which lies between the estuaries of the rivers Blackwater and Colne. The nearest town is Colchester, situated about 9½ miles to the north.

As a summer health resort, it attracts a large number of holiday makers, many of whom enjoy some excellent sailing.

The main industries are agriculture, fishing, building and yacht building etc.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	M.	*F.*	*Total*
Live Births All	32	28	60
Legitimate	32	26	58
Illegitimate	0	2	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			16.8
Comparability Factor			1.51
Corrected Birth Rate			25.4
England and Wales			17.2
Still Births All	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...			16
England and Wales			14.8
	M.	*F.*	*Total*
Total Births (live and still births)			61
Infant Deaths All	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
In 1st week: All	1	1	2
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 births			33
Infant mortality rate, England and Wales			18.3

	M.	F.	Total
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...		...	33
Early neonatal mortality rate (1st week) per 1,000 related births			33
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during 1st week per 1,000 total live and still births) ...			49
Percentage of illegitimate live births			3.3
Maternal deaths			0
Maternal mortality rate			0
Deaths	33	32	65
Death rate per 1,000 resident population			18.2
Corrected death rate			10.7
England and Wales			11.2
Comparability Factor			0.59

Causes of Death during 1967

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	6	0	6
Malignant neoplasm breast	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	6	10
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	5	5	10
Coronary disease, angina	9	7	16
Hypertension with heart disease ...	0	1	1
Other heart disease	1	5	6
Other circulatory disease	2	0	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	4	3	7
Suicide	1	1	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	33	32	65

National Assistance Acts, 1948–51

No action taken under these Acts.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health—Sylvia MacMillan, M.R.S.C., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Part-time, devoting the remainder of time to two neighbouring authorities and to the County Council.

Public Health Inspector—E. J. Banner, M.Inst., H.E., A.R.S.H., Full-time, also Surveyor to the Council.

Laboratory Facilities

The Laboratories available are situated at:

The Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

The Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

The Counties Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Ambulance

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the telephone receiver and ask for an ambulance. If there is a dialling system in operation dial "999" or "0" or "01" and ask for ambulance.

Health Services provided by the Essex County Council

Ante-Natal and post-natal clinics.

Midwives.

Nursing in the Home.

Health Visiting.

Home Helps.

Vaccination and immunisation of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and measles.

Mental Welfare.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School Health services.

Women's Welfare Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester at 10 a.m. on 1st and 3rd Thursday in each month.

Relaxation and Mothercraft classes are also held at the Central Clinic, East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 2.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays in each month at 2.15 p.m. High Street North, West Mersea.

Welfare Foods are obtainable from:—

Mersea Stores, Yorick Road, West Mersea.

Assistance from the Home Help Services is obtained by communicating with the Area Health Office, East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester (Telephone: Colchester 79411/9).

Health Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis—The Chest Clinic is situated at St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester, and is open daily.

V.D.—Sessions held at the Essex County Hospital on Mondays, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for males and females, and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for males and females.

Family Planning at Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester.

Family Planning Association Clinic—Mondays and Tuesdays (except those following Bank Holidays) between 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The water supplies in the district have been under the control of the Colchester and District Water Board since the 1st April, 1961 and water is supplied direct from the Board's sources which are outside the district.

Premises connected to water mains

The number of houses supplied from the water mains is	1561
The number of houses connected to water mains during the year was	54

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Inspections

Houses visited under the Housing Acts	50
Visits under Public Health Acts	17
Butchers' Shops visited	7
Fried Fish Shops visited	5
Ice Cream Stores visited	14
Bakehouses visited	3
Visits under Factory Acts	10
Moveable dwellings and Caravan Sites visited ...	8
Dairies visited	4
Visits under Offices and Shops Acts	68

Notices

Statutory Notices served, Public Health Acts	Nil
Informal Notices served, Public Health Acts	2
Informal Notices complied with	2
Demolition Orders issued	Nil
Closing Orders issued	Nil

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council's sewage disposal works which were reconstructed in 1958 for the partial treatment of sewage before discharge to the main channel of the Blackwater Estuary continue to operate satisfactorily.

The construction of a new main outfall sewer, from Kingsland Road to the disposal works, commenced in 1966 was completed and put into use during the year. 54 houses were connected to sewers during the year.

HOUSING

Housing on the Island is of a good standard and does not present the same problem as in other districts as most of the property is owner occupied and consequently kept in a good state of repair. Action is however taken where considered necessary and properties are given the modern amenities with the help of Improvement Grants.

Action under the Housing Acts were taken at the following premises: —

Red Cottage, Churchfields.

Wood Bungalows, Littlebury and Dieu Donne, Going Estate, Lower Kingsland Road.

Undertakings were accepted in each of the above cases under Section 16 and work on reconstruction was commenced and proceeding at the end of the year.

54 Houses were built by Private Enterprise. Applications were approved for Standard Grant and 10 such Grants were recommended for payment.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse from houses and shops is removed at weekly intervals and public cleansing of streets and beaches is carried out at frequent intervals during the season. Paper Sacks were introduced on the Beach and Car Parks for the deposit of refuse in the place of bins.

All refuse is removed to the Colchester Borough's controlled tip.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and requirements are adequately met by slaughterhouses in Colchester.

The number of food premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act are: —

Meat products	3
Ice cream premises	25 (sale only)

The following food was voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Meat paste 2lbs.

MOSQUITO NUISANCE

Known breeding places of mosquitoes were treated at intervals throughout the breeding season.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Number on Register	12
Number of Visits	10
Cases in which defects were found	Nil

OUTWORK

Number of outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (i) (c)	Irregularities Section 110	Irregularities Section 111
Nil	—	—

Printed by The Manor Press Ltd., Colchester